

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

New claims 7-29 are added. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-29 remain pending for consideration and claims 2, 5 and 6 are withdrawn under the restriction requirement. Support for new claims 7 through 29 may be found at, for example, paragraphs 13, 14, 19-24 and 29-31 respectively of Applicants' specification.

Applicants have amended the abstract to address the objections raised in the Official Action.

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected over Palermo. The Official Action states that Palermo discloses a guide wire where a first member 142 and a second member 146 are joined by a welded region 177. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Palermo discloses a proximal tubular section 142 of a guidewire that is attached at a joint 144 to a distal section 146 by gluing or soldering. See FIG. 2 and col. 5, lines 56-62. FIG. 7 of Palermo shows a guidewire that has a braided reinforcement distally. See col. 5, lines 1-2. In this embodiment, a distal region of a core 175 is grounded down to a taper and then jacketed by a tubular metallic braid 177 that is bonded to the core 175. This jacket 177 is intended to give added column stiffness to the core 175. See col. 7, lines 61-67 through col. 8, lines 1-9. Thus, the braided jacket 177 is not a welded portion at which a first wire and a second wire are welded to one another.

Claims 1 and 3 include the feature of "a wire member including a welded portion formed by welding a first wire disposed on the distal side of said wire member to a second wire disposed on the proximal side from said first wire and

made from a material having an elastic modulus larger than that of said first wire.”

Palermo does not teach or suggest this feature of the invention. As noted above, Palermo’s proximal section 142 is attached to the distal section 146 by gluing or soldering the two sections at the joint 144. There is nothing in Palermo to suggest that sections 142 and 146 are attached by welding. Further, the braid 177 disclosed in Palermo is not a welded portion of which the sections 142, 146 are welded to one another. In fact, the braid 177 disclosed in Palermo is not even used together with the sections 142, 144 -- the braid 177 is used in the embodiment of the guidewire shown in Fig. 7 while the sections 142, 146 are used in connection with the Fig. 2 embodiment. Therefore, claims 1 and 3 are not anticipated by Palermo. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1, 3 and 4 be withdrawn and these claims allowed.

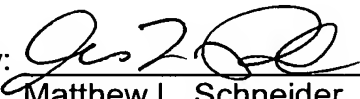
New claims 7-29 depend from allowable claims 1 and 3, respectively, and recite features of the invention which further distinguish over the art. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 7-29.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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